

The Voice and Vision for VAPT

March 2004

Editor, Bill Carr – Virginia Beach

A Message from our President,



Barbara Goodman

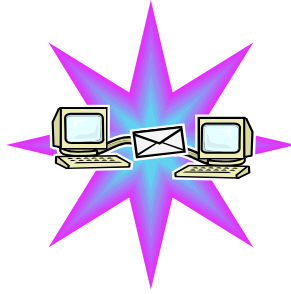
In looking for a way to pay tribute to the people in the VAPT organization, I came across General Colin Powell's "A Leadership Primer." Lesson 8, states, "Organization doesn't really accomplish anything. Plans don't accomplish anything, either. Theories of management don't much matter. Endeavors succeed or fail because of the people involved. Only by attracting the best people will you accomplish great deeds."

Not only has the VAPT organization attracted very good people, but has retained them. Board members and committee chairpersons are in the forefront; other members work quietly "behind the scenes." All are immersed in the betterment of the organization.

I did not have the opportunity to be involved during the inception of VAPT, but I knew the local transportation people who provided leadership to this fledgling organization. VAPT has come a long way since 1977, when Nathan Young, Henrico County Transportation Director was nominated to serve as the first VAPT President.

As VAPT nears completion of its twenty-seventh year, it is moving to a new level of activity – a level that I am confident will be sustained because of the dedication and work of its members.

I know this seems trite, but when it's time to renew your membership or consider new membership, don't ask what VAPT is going to do for you. Ask instead, what you can do for VAPT. In the meantime, thank you to all current members of our great organization.



Ernie Greene, our current VAPT web site curator, has recently bought a weekend place down in the Northern Neck of Virginia. Originally planning to relax and kayak every chance he got, he was surprised to discover that this weekend house would require just as much work as his house in northern Virginia – maybe even more work! The long and short of it is he just doesn't have the time to handle two sets of "honey-do" lists and maintain the VAPT web site.

There has to be someone out there in VAPT-land that is a cracker-jack at web-page design, HTML, and would like to be the VAPT web site curator.
☺

If you would like to take over that responsibility please drop an email to either Ernie at egreene@fcps.edu or Tim Parker at tparker@fcps.edu. Ernie would appreciate it, his wife would appreciate it, and so would VAPT.



A ray of sunshine has left our mist -

On January 28th, Helen Poore, Transportation Director of Charlottesville City Public Schools and Transit and the 1997 VAPT President died after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Her funeral was held in the town of Louisa. Helen loved flowers, therefore flowers were sent on behalf of the VAPT Board and the VAPT membership accompanied with a note written by our President, Barbara Goodman. Everyone who knew Helen was blessed by her gentle, loving personality and certainly will miss her.

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY and PUPIL TRANSPORTATION LINKS:

- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration: <http://nhtsa.org>
- School Transportation News: <http://schooltransportation.com>
- School Bus Fleet Magazine: <http://schoolbusfleet.com>
- School Bus Information Council: <http://schoolbusinfo.org>
- National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT): www.napt.org
- National School Transportation Association: www.schooltrans.com
- National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Service: www.nasdpts.org
- North Carolina School Bus Safety: www.ncbussafety.org

NEWS FROM ALBEMARLE COUNTY

Submitted by Willie Smith, Director



Ms. Betty Proctor has long distinguished herself as one of the most valuable members in the Albemarle County Public Schools Department of Pupil Transportation. In her current position as driver trainer, a position held since May 1999, she has made a significant contribution in making our school bus driver training program one of the best in the Commonwealth.

Since assuming the driver trainer position, Ms. Proctor has been largely responsible for fully automating all record keeping and personnel files. As a result of her leadership, the department now boasts of an excellent ride-along program and currently provides quality instruction in areas such as defensive driving, CPR, child safety seat installation and maintenance, and a host of other programs that benefit both our department as well as the local community.

Ms. Proctor, time and again has demonstrated the necessary demeanor, determination and “can do” attitude that enabled her to consistently

exceed all expectations in a variety of previously held positions in this department. Her devotion to duty and desire to succeed, coupled with an outstanding penchant for highly effective communications continues to be a key factor in our Department of Pupil Transportation's overall success.

REGIONAL DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Region 1 – Met in Hanover County. David Benware is the new director for Richmond City following the retirement of Jim Tucker. Discussed a possible *academy for training new directors and holding it during a session at the June conference.

Region 2 – Met in Chesapeake. Topics covered were the Regional School Bus Road-e-o, driver's post trip school bus inspection, the Annual VAPT/DOE Conference, and reviewed recommendations for the conference. Don Ummusig, DOE, provided a very informative update on DOE matters. Several House Bills were reviewed and discussed.

Region 3 – Met in Spotsylvania County. Floyd Merryman introduced a new style school bus, Michael Waltrip spoke on the school bus road-e-o, and there was a discussion on the FLSA.

Region 4 – Discussed the National Conference Updates and use of designated Activity Bus drivers and use of taxis for activities and special needs.

Region 5 – Met in Nelson County and shared their opening of school problems.

Region 6 – No report

Region 7 – Met in Washington County and discussed the same issues as the other regions and the Governor's procurement proposals.

Region 8 – Met in Mecklenburg County with nine of the twelve school divisions in attendance. Topics covered included school bus driver training, driver retention, and hours of service.

* DOE is working on a handbook for the director's session.

FEBRUARY WAS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Ancestors of all nationalities have made significant contributions to our country's history. In recognition of Black History Month, listed below are the names of great Black American inventors who made significant contributions to our country:

- Alexander Mils - the elevator
- Richard Spikes - the automatic gear shift
- Joseph Gambol - the Super Charge System for Internal Combustion Engines
- Garrett A. Morgan - the traffic signal
- Albert R. Robinson - the electric trolley (procured the rapid transit system)
- Charles Brooks - the street sweeper
- John Love – the pencil sharpener
- William Purveys – the fountain pen
- Lee Barrage – the Type Writing Machine
- W.A Love – the Advanced Printing Press
- William Barry – the Postmarking and Canceling Machine (enabled people to mail their letters, articles and books)
- William Purveys – the Hand Stamp
- Philip Downing – the Letter Drop
- Joseph Smith – the lawn sprinkler
- John Burr – the lawn mower
- Frederick Jones – the air conditioner
- Alice Parker – the heating furnace
- Lewis Later – the electric lamp (not the light bulb – the electric lamp)
- Michael Harvey – the lantern
- Thomas W. Steward – the mop
- Lloyd P. Ray – the dust pan
- Jan E. Matzelinger – the shoe lasting machine
- Walter Sammons - the comb
- Sarah Boone – the ironing board
- George T. Samon – the clothes dryer
- John Standard – the refrigerator

Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “by the time we leave for work, Americans have depended on the inventions from the minds of blacks.” Black history includes more than just slavery issues. Frederick Douglas, Harriet Tubman, George Washington Carver, Eli Whitney and many other people have served America in great ways.

School Bus Road-e-o Committee would like to know - -

1. Does your school division have a local road-e-o?
2. Does your division hold a conventional and/or transit road-e-o?

Please email Sharon Utley, Sharon_Utley@ccpsnet.net or Cris Sprouse, csprouse@vbcps.k12.va.us with your reply. The VAPT Board has approved providing trophies and paying for the National School Bus Road-e-o registration fees for both the Conventional and Transit type school bus road-e-o winners.

Newsletter Committee:

We would like to do a series on individuals serving in the Armed Forces. If you have a staff member serving and you would like to write an article for a future newsletter, please email it to the Editor, Bill Carr, at bcarr@vbcps.k12.va.us

Meet Our New Poster Contest Chairperson - Margaret Rayner



Margaret was raised on a farm in Prince George County, Virginia and then moved to Hopewell in 1963. She was ready to try a little adventure in her life so she decided in 1963 to drive a school bus for the Hopewell Public Schools. Margaret worked 30 years for a private contractor until the Hopewell school system purchased its own fleet of school buses in 1996. She has been happily married to her husband Raymond for 47 years and has two children and two grandchildren. Margaret enjoys all kinds of foods, card games, high school football, receiving cards, and loves to travel. If anyone is interested in information regarding the School Bus Safety Poster Contest please contact her – she serves on that committee – at (804) 541-6418 or email her at mrayner@hopewell.k12.va.us.

Response to the December 2003 “ISSUE OF THE MONTH”

Issue: Methods used to monitor drivers’ and assistants’ hours in compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act. The following is a great response received:

In regards to the Fair Labor Standards situation we have worked hard in our school division to eliminate the conflicts. Each driver who has an additional job within the district must complete a time sheet for each position. The managers of both departments where the driver works meet each school year to discuss each employee who is dual employed in Transportation Services and in another department. They work out schedules for these drivers to assure they do not exceed the weekly 40-hour limit. Each driver in dual jobs is assigned a “blended rate” in case circumstances arise causing overtime to be paid. We have had several regional, state meetings and met with wage attorneys to address some issues involving the FLSA. In these discussions we have found from the attorneys that the areas that litigation is centering on appears to be the following:

- Not Paying overtime when two jobs exceed 40 weekly hours
- Not completing time sheets
- Not paying drivers until they pick up the first student
- Not paying drivers their regular rates on field trips or non-driving time
- A big problem has been districts that pay “daily” rates instead of “hourly” rates. Each daily rate must be computed into an hourly rate for the sake of computing overtime. This issue is a major one that really needs to be addressed by all the districts because the lawsuits are coming. An assistant superintendent in Georgia is being sued over the fact that the school bus contractor they hired did not pay drivers overtime rates when required. The court ruled on a motion that the district was still responsible for the actions of the subcontractor!

“The only people you should ever want to get “even” with are those who have helped you.”

- John Honeyfeld

“When we seek to discover the best in others, we somehow bring out the best in ourselves.”

William Arthur Ward

News from Charlotte County Public Schools

(Submitted by Bill Mayhew, Shop Foreman)

Earl Southall retired from the Charlotte County Public Schools on June 30, 2003. Earl served as the Shop Foreman and a substitute school bus driver for 33 years. He received several awards for perfect attendance during his tenure. A retirement dinner was given in Earl's honor and was attended by other retirees whom he had worked with. Everyone enjoyed their visit while talking about the "good old days" and looking over old photographs. Earl now is working on lawnmowers and other small engines in his shop at home. Everyone misses Earl and enjoys seeing him from time to time when he stops by. Earl said he is enjoying retirement very much and we all hope he continues to have a long and happy retirement.

News from the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services

NASDPTS recently surveyed its State Director members to determine the current state-by-state laws/regulations on the use of 12- and 15-passenger vans to transport students to and from school or on school-related activity trips. The survey was done in order to update an earlier study done in 1999. This latest information will allow the association to respond to questions from legislators, the media and the public.

The following summarizes the results of the survey:

- The following 29 states have laws or regulations that prohibit the use of vans for transporting public school students to and from school-related activities. Alabama, California, Delaware, Florida, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Wyoming.
- 12 states have laws and regulations that prohibit the use of vans for transporting public school students to and from school, but allow the use of vans for school activity trips. [Note: One state has passed legislation that will prohibit the use of vans for activity trips after June 30, 2006.] The 12 states are Alaska, Arizona, Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Nevada, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and West Virginia
- 9 states allow the use of vans for transporting public school students to and from school and school-related activities. [Note: One of these nine states has passed legislation that will

not allow the use of vans to transport students after June 1, 2008. Another state has a state-wide, self-insurance pool that will not insure vans used to transport students after July 1, 2005.] These states are Arkansas, Colorado, Hawaii, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Dakota, Vermont, and Wisconsin.

- In many states, the laws and regulations that apply to public schools may not apply to private and church-sponsored schools.

The State Directors Association believes that it is appropriate to require higher levels of safety in vehicles that transportation children to and from school and school-related activities. Accordingly, the State Directors Association supports the position that school children should be transported in school buses which provide the highest levels of safety, not in 12- and 15-passenger vans which do not meet the stringent school bus safety standards issued by the Federal government and recommended by the National Conference on School Transportation, an organization of state school transportation officials.

The State Directors Association believes states are in the best position to ensure that vans, both new and used, are not used in lieu of school buses. This action can be accomplished by establishing strict requirements on the types of motor vehicles that can be used within a state for transporting children to and from school and school-related activities, and by enforcing those requirements. It is important that state legislatures understand that allowing the use of vans for transporting students, either to and from school or on school activity trips causes any dealer that sells or leases a new van to schools to violate a Federal law.

Transporter Ponderings...

Are your Spring Driver In-service Programs Completed?

Have you ordered your Safe Driving Awards?

Are your supervisory and technician staff making plans to attend the June Conference?

Will you have a Local Rodeo and a State Rodeo Contestant this year?

IC CORPORATION RECALL NOTICE

(Formerly American Transportation Corporation)
IC Corporation Recall #03306 and NHTSA Recall #04V-010

Modesty Panel at Front Barriers

This notice is sent in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. IC Corporation has decided that a defect, which relates to motor vehicles safety, exists in certain American Transportation FE buses. The Modesty panel mounted under the front seat barriers may be bent out of position, exposing a sharp edge. This could cause personal injury and is considered a **safety issue**.

The affected FE model buses were built from October 14, 1991 through November 6, 2003. The vehicle identified on the enclosed card fits this description and our records show you as the owner of this vehicle. This modesty panel is an option and not included on every bus.

DEFECT DESCRIPTION

The steel modesty panel that is installed under the seat barrier behind the driver seat and behind the entrance door is cutout to clear the wheel well. This cutout allows the lower portion of the panel to be bent out of position leaving a gap between the wheel-well and the lower edge of the modesty panel at the cutout area. The edge of the cut out is protected with snake rubber (protective edging). If the snake rubber is knocked off of the edge of the panel, a raw edge is exposed facing down.

ACTION YOU SHOULD TAKE:

Advise the operators of the subject vehicles of this defect. If the operator detects this defect, the operator should make sure that the snake rubber is in place and have the panel secured by following the repair instructions.

REPAIR PROCEDURE:

Your dealer will make this correction for you at no cost. Contact your dealer to make the arrangements to repair your unit.

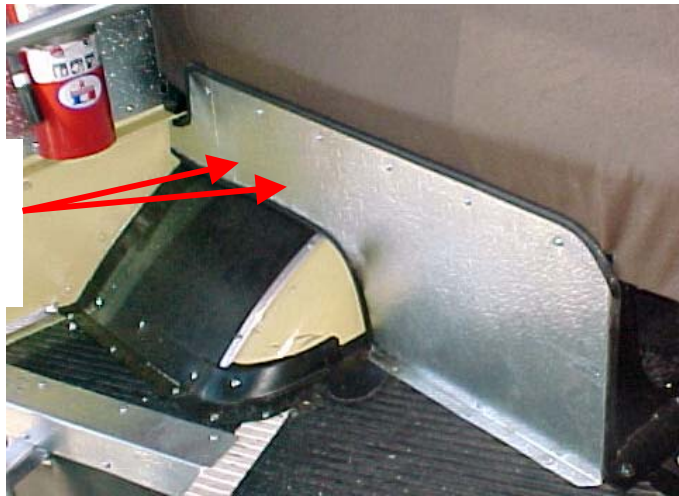
If you desire to make this repair yourself, you may purchase the repair kit from the dealer. When you invoice us for the cost of labor, you may add the cost for the repair kit purchased at your dealer. If for some reason you are unable to obtain the repair kit from your local dealer, you may return the **"AUTHORIZATION FOR RECALL SERVICE"** card with box #8 checked and we will ship the part directly to you at no charge. Please verify that your shipping address is correct. A Post Office Box (P.O. Box) number for shipping is not acceptable. We must have a street or road address. **WARNING! To prevent serious eye injury, always wear safe eye protection when you perform vehicle maintenance or service.**

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING

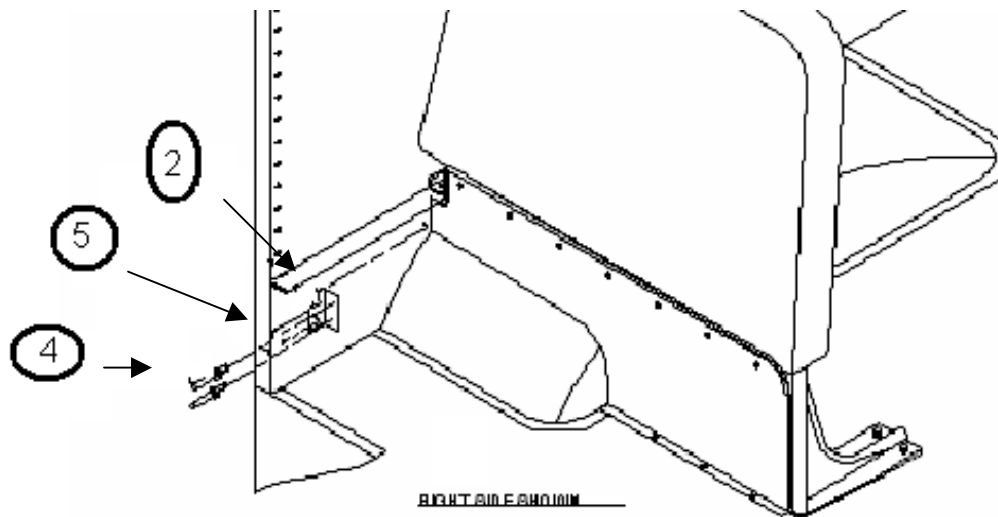
Please contact an authorized dealer or IC Corporation's Compliance Department at 1-800-843-5615. You may locate your nearest dealer by calling 1-800-993-7686 or you may call IC Corporation's Compliance Department.

In the event you no longer own the vehicle described, please inform IC Corporation so they can notify the correct owner.

Area where panel may be bent out of position.



This repair procedure involves adding a bracket at the wall to secure the end of the modesty panel. This must be done to the panel on both sides of the bus.



VAPT "2004-2005" MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION



New Member? Yes _____ No _____

Please send your completed application including a check in the amount of **\$15.00** per member to cover membership dues to: **Mr. Willie Smith, VAPT Treasurer, Albemarle County Public Schools, Transportation Office, 110 Lambs Lane, Charlottesville, VA 22901**

***Type of Membership:** (circle one)

| | | |
|----------------|-----------|----------|
| Administrative | Associate | Honorary |
|----------------|-----------|----------|

Form of Address: (circle one)

| | | | | |
|-----|-----|------|----|------|
| Dr. | Mr. | Mrs. | Ms | Miss |
|-----|-----|------|----|------|

Name: (Last) _____ **(First)** _____

Employment Title: (circle one)

| | | | |
|----------|--------------------|------------|--------|
| Director | Assistant Director | Supervisor | *Other |
|----------|--------------------|------------|--------|

***Other** (please be specific) _____

School Division: _____ (circle one) City/County, Region# _____

OR Organization: _____

Mailing Address: (P.O. Box or Street/Hwy) _____

(City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip Code) _____

E-mail

Address:(Home)(optional) _____

E-mail Address:

(Business) _____

Circle the E-MAIL ADDRESS you would like the VAPT newsletter sent.

Business Telephone: (include area code) _____

Business Fax: (include area code) _____

Emergency Use Telephone Numbers in the event another VAPT member needs assistance while in your area: (include area code) Phone Number: _____ Cell: _____

VAPT STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES: Please circle the committees listed below if you are interested in serving on that committee.

Audit Conference Constitution/By-Laws Legislative Membership Nominating
Resolution Scholarship Newsletter Position Papers Poster Contest School Bus
Road-e-o

***Types of Memberships:**

Administrative: personnel in pupil transportation such as directors, assistant directors, supervisors, assistant supervisors, and chief/foreman mechanics. Also, personnel whose responsibilities and duties are related to pupil transportation in some administrative or supervisory capacity, i.e. superintendent, DOE personnel supervisors.

Associate: members whose primary concentration of interest includes the safe transportation of children in the Commonwealth of Virginia, i.e. school bus body and chassis representatives and others directly associated with or concerned with the objectives of the Association.

Honorary: former Administrative members retired in the field of pupil transportation, i.e. former presidents of VAPT.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT/MEMBERSHIP NUMBER: _____

Application received by: _____ Date received: _____

Fee received by: _____ Date received: _____ Amt. received: _____

Check # _____ Cash _____ Date posted by treasurer: _____, Date posted to the Membership listing: _____

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN THIS BOX